

to submit a Senate resolution commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the founding of the Vietnam Veterans of America. The resolution also points out that April marks the 23rd Anniversary of the founding of Vietnam Veterans of America's first local chapter in my hometown of Rutland, VT.

The VVA is a Congressionally chartered national veterans service organization exclusively dedicated to Vietnam-era veterans and their families. In the late 1970s, America had come through its longest and most divisive war. Many of the millions of veterans who served during that period felt that the veteran community and the Federal Government failed to address their specific concerns.

In January 1978, Bobby Muller and a small band of Vietnam veterans came to Washington, DC to create an advocacy organization to push for Federal action to address the needs of this unique veteran population. The VVA, initially known as the Vietnam Veterans Coalition and then the Council of Vietnam Veterans, went to work focusing first on the dissemination of government information and coordination of relations between the Federal Government and veterans.

In time, it became clear that, like many other organizations, this one could not survive simply by making a good case for its initiatives—it needed to build a strong membership base in order to wield political power. By the summer of 1979, the new Vietnam Veterans of America began to focus on building its membership.

While the growth of the organization was slow initially, a breakthrough came following resolution of the American Hostage Crisis in Iran in January 1981. While watching the jubilant homecoming given the American hostages, many Vietnam veterans were poignantly reminded of the hostile reception they faced upon their return home. Vietnam veterans began to clamor for action in the form of programs that would place the latest generation of wartime veterans on the same footing as veterans from previous wars.

The strength of the organization grew with the increase in membership. The public also became more willing to deal with the neglected veterans issues unique to the Vietnam War. An important manifestation of this increased public awareness was the opening of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in November 1982. The activities around the Memorial rekindled a sense of camaraderie among the veterans and the feeling of a shared experience too significant to ignore.

Since then, the VVA has broadened the scope of services it provides to its membership, including the founding of the Vietnam Veterans of America Legal Services that provides assistance to veterans seeking benefits and services from the Federal Government. An example of the critical information dissemination function of the VVA is the

publication of information on the manifestations of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Agent Orange illnesses, as well treatment and compensation available to veterans.

The legislative accomplishments of the VVA through its high-profile presence on Capitol Hill have been impressive. Organizations like Vietnam-era Veterans in Congress have served the overall membership well by supporting the pragmatic agenda of the VVA and championing its founding principle that "Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another."

Today, the VVA has a national membership of 45,000 in more than 600 chapters. VVA state councils in 43 states coordinate the activities and programs of its national organization, ensuring that grassroots input to Congress continues to ensure that the Federal Government meets its obligations to its Vietnam veterans.

This resolution expresses the Senate's gratitude to the Vietnam Veterans of America for its strong advocacy on behalf of its members and wishes it continued success in the years to come.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 35—HONORING THE 129 SAILORS AND CIVILIANS LOST ABOARD THE U.S.S. THRESHER ON APRIL 10, 1963, AND URGING THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY TO ERECT A MEMORIAL TO THIS TRAGEDY IN ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

Mr. SUNUNU (for himself, Mr. GREGG, Ms. SNOWE, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

S. CON. RES. 35

Whereas the U.S.S. Thresher was first launched at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard on July 9, 1960;

Whereas the U.S.S. Thresher departed Portsmouth Naval Shipyard for her final voyage on April 9, 1963, with a crew of 16 officers, 96 sailors, and 17 civilians;

Whereas the mix of that crew reflects the unity of military and civilian personnel in the naval submarine service, and in the protection of the Nation;

Whereas at approximately 7:47 a.m. on April 10, 1963, while in communication with the surface ship U.S.S. Skylark, and approximately 300 miles off the coast of New England, the U.S.S. Thresher began her final descent;

Whereas the U.S.S. Thresher was declared lost with all hands on April 10, 1963; and

Whereas the crew of the U.S.S. Thresher demonstrated the "last full measure of devotion" in service to this Nation, and this devotion characterizes the sacrifices of all submariners, past and present: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—*

(1) remembers with profound sorrow the loss of the U.S.S. Thresher and her gallant crew of sailors and civilians on April 10, 1963; and

(2) urges the Secretary of the Army to erect a memorial in Arlington National Cemetery, to be paid for with private funds, hon-

oring the crew of the U.S.S. Thresher, and to all United States submariners who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, last week, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed S. Res. 102, a resolution I introduced that pays tribute to the 129 officers, sailors and civilians who tragically lost their lives aboard the nuclear submarine, U.S.S. *Thresher*.

Today, on the 40th anniversary of the loss of the *Thresher*, I once again join with Senators GREGG, SNOWE and COLLINS to introduce legislation which calls on the Secretary of the Army to erect a memorial at Arlington National Cemetery to honor the crew who were lost on the *Thresher* as well as other nuclear submariners lost at sea. Companion legislation is being introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressman JEB BRADLEY.

As I stated last week, the U.S.S. *Thresher* was built at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and commissioned in August of 1961 as the lead vessel in a new class of nuclear-powered attack submarines. After putting to sea, she was subjected to more than a year of tests along the eastern coast of the United States. In late 1962, the *Thresher* returned to New England for an overhaul where she remained until the spring of 1963.

On April 9, 1963, the *Thresher* departed the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard to conduct deep-diving exercises some 200 miles off the coast of New England. In the morning hours of April 10, 1963, after reaching her assigned depth, the U.S.S. *Thresher*, signaled her companion surface ship, the U.S.S. *Skylark*, that it was experiencing difficulties. Shortly thereafter, the crew of the *Skylark* realized that something had gone wrong as they heard the sound of the *Thresher* breaking apart.

The inquiry following the loss of the *Thresher* identified the probable cause of the accident as a failure in the piping which led to a subsequent loss of power and ultimately an inability to blow the ballast tanks which would have allowed the *Thresher* to rise. As a result of the inquiry, the Navy initiated key changes aimed at ensuring the safety of future submarines, and by extension, their crews. The safety of today's modern submarine fleet is a direct result of the lessons learned following the loss of the *Thresher*.

Those who have served aboard America's submarine fleet over the years have genuine appreciation and gratitude for the sacrifice made by the crew of the *Thresher*. While modern submariners admire and respect these heroes, their sacrifice is largely unknown to many Americans. That is why I believe a memorial on the hallowed ground of Arlington National Cemetery to the crew of the U.S.S. *Thresher* will allow the memory of these 129 brave individuals to be given the honor and respect they are due. In addition to paying tribute to the *Thresher*, the memorial would honor all nuclear submariners who have lost their lives at sea.

Mr. President, I am aware that there are space constraints at Arlington. However, the memorial we are calling for would encompass a limited area—approximately the size of two burial plots. This would allow for enough space to pay proper respect to these American heroes. The legislation we are introducing today urges the Army to locate and allocate such space.

I encourage my colleagues to join Senators GREGG, SNOWE, COLLINS and me in honoring these individuals by supporting this measure, and I ask for its speedy consideration by the Senate.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that an editorial from the April 6th edition of *Dover, New Hampshire's Foster's Sunday Citizen* titled "Build a Memorial to the Thresher" be included in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

#### BUILD A MEMORIAL TO HONOR THRESHER

As the most powerful military force ever to navigate the seas, the invincibility of today's United States Navy is the sum of myriad successes and tragic failures throughout its history.

The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard has played as big a part—if not bigger—in the Navy's evolution as any other entity. The yard and the residents of our region can be proud of contributions made here over more than two centuries to the evolution of our national defense at sea.

That is why it is important for us to preserve the memory of the USS Thresher and her crew, all of whom perished on April 10, 1963, in the deep ocean.

The preservation of that memory was the reason why people gathered at the shipyard on Saturday. They wanted to remember the boat and her crew—96 sailors, 16 officers and 17 employees of the shipyard.

Besides the New Hampshire and Maine congressional delegations, many in attendance were relatives of those who perished and whose sacrifice resulted in monumental changes to the way submarines after 1963 were constructed for the U.S. Navy.

As a result, it is entirely appropriate for the delegation to call for the construction of a memorial to the USS Thresher and her crew at Arlington National Cemetery. Given the magnitude of the Thresher's contributions to submarine safety during the past 40 years, it is difficult not to support such a project.

As a result of their sacrifice, the SubSafe program was created. Regulations on hull integrity and pressure-related components for submarines were strengthened. The sinking of the Thresher has resulted in the lives of countless submariners being saved because of safety improvement to the vessels they worked on.

Since the Thresher, not one submarine has been lost under similar circumstances.

The USS Thresher was the harbinger of the awesome attack submarines we have today to protect our shores and interests abroad. The debt we owe to the crew and civilians who accepted—on our nation's behalf—the hazards of living and working under water cannot be repaid.

Building a memorial to preserve their memory and contributions is the best we are able to do.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 529. Mr. HATCH (for Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DUR-

BIN, Mr. GREGG, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. ROCKFELLER, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. TALENT, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. SPECTER, and Mr. DASCHLE) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1584, to implement effective measures to stop trade in conflict diamonds, and for other purposes.

SA 530. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. CHAMBLISS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 783, to expedite the granting of posthumous citizenship to members of the United States Armed Forces.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 529.** Mr. HATCH (for Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. GREGG, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. ROCKFELLER, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. TALENT, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. SPECTER, and Mr. DASCHLE) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1584, to implement effective measures to stop trade in conflict diamonds, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Clean Diamond Trade Act".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Funds derived from the sale of rough diamonds are being used by rebels and state actors to finance military activities, overthrow legitimate governments, subvert international efforts to promote peace and stability, and commit horrifying atrocities against unarmed civilians. During the past decade, more than 6,500,000 people from Sierra Leone, Angola, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo have been driven from their homes by wars waged in large part for control of diamond mining areas. A million of these are refugees eking out a miserable existence in neighboring countries, and tens of thousands have fled to the United States. Approximately 3,700,000 people have died during these wars.

(2) The countries caught in this fighting are home to nearly 70,000,000 people whose societies have been torn apart not only by fighting but also by terrible human rights violations.

(3) Human rights and humanitarian advocates, the diamond trade as represented by the World Diamond Council, and the United States Government have been working to block the trade in conflict diamonds. Their efforts have helped to build a consensus that action is urgently needed to end the trade in conflict diamonds.

(4) The United Nations Security Council has acted at various times under chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations to address threats to international peace and security posed by conflicts linked to diamonds. Through these actions, it has prohibited all states from exporting weapons to certain countries affected by such conflicts. It has further required all states to prohibit the direct and indirect import of rough diamonds from Sierra Leone unless the diamonds are controlled under specified certificate of origin regimes and to prohibit absolutely the direct and indirect import of rough diamonds from Liberia.

(5) In response, the United States implemented sanctions restricting the importation of rough diamonds from Sierra Leone to

those diamonds accompanied by specified certificates of origin and fully prohibiting the importation of rough diamonds from Liberia. The United States is now taking further action against trade in conflict diamonds.

(6) Without effective action to eliminate trade in conflict diamonds, the trade in legitimate diamonds faces the threat of a consumer backlash that could damage the economies of countries not involved in the trade in conflict diamonds and penalize members of the legitimate trade and the people they employ. To prevent that, South Africa and more than 30 other countries are involved in working, through the "Kimberley Process", toward devising a solution to this problem. As the consumer of a majority of the world's supply of diamonds, the United States has an obligation to help sever the link between diamonds and conflict and press for implementation of an effective solution.

(7) Failure to curtail the trade in conflict diamonds or to differentiate between the trade in conflict diamonds and the trade in legitimate diamonds could have a severe negative impact on the legitimate diamond trade in countries such as Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, and Tanzania.

(8) Initiatives of the United States seek to resolve the regional conflicts in sub-Saharan Africa which facilitate the trade in conflict diamonds.

(9) The Interlaken Declaration on the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for Rough Diamonds of November 5, 2002, states that Participants will ensure that measures taken to implement the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for Rough Diamonds will be consistent with international trade rules.

#### SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term "appropriate congressional committees" means the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Finance and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

(2) **CONTROLLED THROUGH THE KIMBERLEY PROCESS CERTIFICATION SCHEME.**—An importation or exportation of rough diamonds is "controlled through the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme" if it is an importation from the territory of a Participant or exportation to the territory of a Participant of rough diamonds that is—

(A) carried out in accordance with the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, as set forth in regulations promulgated by the President; or

(B) controlled under a system determined by the President to meet substantially the standards, practices, and procedures of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme.

(3) **EXPORTING AUTHORITY.**—The term "exporting authority" means 1 or more entities designated by a Participant from whose territory a shipment of rough diamonds is being exported as having the authority to validate the Kimberley Process Certificate.

(4) **IMPORTING AUTHORITY.**—The term "importing authority" means 1 or more entities designated by a Participant into whose territory a shipment of rough diamonds is imported as having the authority to enforce the laws and regulations of the Participant regulating imports, including the verification of the Kimberley Process Certificate accompanying the shipment.

(5) **KIMBERLEY PROCESS CERTIFICATE.**—The term "Kimberley Process Certificate" means a forgery resistant document of a Participant that demonstrates that an importation